

[20 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Plans for earthquake hit, unirrigated and drought affected areas

†3799. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the miserable conditions of farmers living in earthquake hit, unirrigated and drought affected areas in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make any special recommendation to improve the condition of agriculture in those areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) As per available information, about 108 million hectares are drought prone, about 40 million hectares are vulnerable to heavy rains and floods and about 54% of the area in the country is vulnerable to seismic activity of varying intensities.

(b) and (c) To increase production and develop agriculture in different parts of the country in future, the Government has decided to switch over from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management mode for providing assistance to States. The scheme envisages integration of 27 schemes into one scheme for supplementation/complementation of States' efforts through work plans which will give flexibility to States to address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim for all-round development of agriculture.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.